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# WEATHER & CROPS



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**Week of: May 7 - May 13, 2007**

**Number: 10**

**Released: May 14, 2007**

## **CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 13, 2007**

The Commonwealth experienced more seasonable weather this week with an average temperature of 63 degrees. Days suitable for field work were 5.60. Topsoil moisture was adequate. Cool temperatures slowed down some crops and pasture growth. Grain producers continued scouting for cereal leaf beetles, aphids and diseases. Producers continued to treat wheat fields for powdery mildew and disease. Some farmers finished planting corn and were readying equipment to make sidedress applications. Some early soybeans have been planted, some producers were waiting for the weather to warm up before planting full-season soybeans. Strawberry and asparagus harvests continued. Other farm activities included: fence and barn repairs, shearing sheep, liming and fertilizing meadows and hay making.

### **TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT**

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 13, 2007	2	28	68	2
May 6, 2007	1	13	83	3
April 29, 2007	1	19	79	1
April 22, 2007	3	11	60	26
April 15, 2007	2	19	59	20

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**AWIS WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 13, 2007**

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
<b>NORTHERN</b>							
Woodstock	84	31	61	-1	0.22	-0.55	1
Warrenton	84	38	63	3	0.86	-0.05	1
Winchester 7 SE	86	36	61	2	1.30	0.46	2
Dale Enterprises	83	34	61	1	0.31	-0.46	3
<b>WESTERN</b>							
Glasgow	87	34	63	2	0.03	-0.81	1
Roanoke AP	87	37	66	4	0.00	-0.91	0
Waynesboro	83	34	60	2	0.45	-0.39	3
Staunton AG	82	34	61	3	0.26	-0.58	1
<b>CENTRAL</b>							
Charlottesville	84	33	63	0	0.73	-0.39	2
Piedmont Res ST	85	37	64	3	0.38	-0.64	1
Bremo Bluff	91	35	66	5	1.23	0.32	1
Richmond AP	86	42	67	3	0.95	0.09	2
<b>EASTERN</b>							
Eastville	83	44	63	-2	0.05	-0.65	1
Wallops Island	81	41	61	-3	0.06	-0.66	2
Williamsburg	84	45	64	0	0.16	-0.86	5
Keysville	86	38	64	2	0.35	-0.49	1
<b>SOUTHWESTERN</b>							
Blacksburg AG	84	32	60	3	0.03	-0.91	1
Wytheville	83	29	58	0	0.00	-0.91	0
Saltville	83	36	62	4	0.00	-1.05	0
Richlands	82	37	62	8	0.00	-1.03	0
<b>SOUTHERN</b>							
Stuart	85	36	63	2	1.19	0.11	2
Danville AG	88	40	64	-1	0.19	-0.66	1
Chatham	85	31	61	-1	0.29	-0.68	3
Martinsville	85	36	62	1	0.25	-0.73	2
<b>SOUTHEASTERN</b>							
Norfolk VA	81	49	63	-2	0.13	-0.71	3
Oceana	84	48	64	-1	0.17	-0.72	4
Emporia	86	43	65	3	0.98	0.14	4
Newport News	84	48	65	1	0.16	-0.68	3

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

**WEATHER & CROPS****Week Of May 7 – May 13, 2007**

<b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Pastures	1	6	33	52	8
Livestock	0	1	16	71	12
Other Hay	1	18	42	35	4
Alfalfa Hay	1	12	49	34	4
Corn	1	3	29	59	8
Winter Wheat	1	7	27	53	12
Barley	0	8	34	56	2
All Apples	25	25	20	30	0
Peaches	31	44	21	4	0
Grapes	0	21	68	11	0

<b>CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS</b>				
<b>Crop</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>5 Year Avg.</b>
Corn Planted	81	77	83	78
Corn Emerged	56	52	60	54
Soybeans Planted	11	8	18	14
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	50	35	65	55
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	9	NA	2	7
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	12	6	13	27
Peanuts Planted	31	15	47	44
Cotton Planted	60	42	82	78

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

## **SOUTHERN**

### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

It is getting dry and the little rain over the weekend was helpful but the wind picked up in places and dried it quickly. The first cutting of hay for several producers has been baled. Some pastures are being bush hogged as they have gotten ahead of the livestock. Most of the tobacco is planted. The corn is looking pretty good and soybeans are being planted. Barley for haylage is being cut.

## **WESTERN**

### **ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)**

We are extremely dry for this time of the year. The first cutting hay yield will be of 30-60%. Farmers are gearing up to begin harvest next week. Alfalfa yields for the first cutting are below normal by 15- 30% due to the dry weather and late freezes in late March and early April. Pasture growth has essentially stopped. Small grain fill will be minimal if substantial rains don't come soon, two frosts this week have not helped things. Corn planting continues with beans to follow soon.

## **CENTRAL**

### **CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Many farmers are cutting hay and trying to get a good first cutting cured and in the barn. Persistent showers have made this difficult and a large amount of first crop hay has been rained on. Most row-crop farmers have finished planting corn and have started on early soybeans. Some are waiting for the weather to warm soil temperatures consistently before planting full-season soybeans. Some lingering effects of the late cold snap in mid to late March and April have been seen in scattered stands of small grain. Shriveled heads and poor grain fill have been seen. Soil moisture is good. We have had about 3" of rain in the past ten days.

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## **REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.**

## **EASTERN**

### **(MIDDLESEX (Moore)**

Misty rains and fog have slowed many activities for the week. Some wheat fields are being treated for powdery mildew and disease. Scouting in small grains continues. Most wheat is now in flowering stage. Corn planting continues to creep along as producers try to finish up and deal with wet fields. Corn that has emerged is looking white - yellow and needs some sunshine and warmer temperatures. Some nuisance weeds are popping up in no-till corn fields. Full season soybean planting began at week's end and should be in full swing by next week. Producers continue to prep fields for planting. Haymaking continues but the weather is not cooperating. Producers also are readying equipment to make sidedress applications to corn, which will begin soon. Vegetables are looking fair and could also use some warm sunny days to get established.

### **ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)**

Excellent planting and field conditions. Corn emerged in 7 to 8 days. Looks like no cotton will be planted in the county this year. The land will be switched to corn because of corn prices. The tomato crop is on schedule. Good growth for all the crops and vegetation this week. The potato crop is up, in good shape and has good growth. Wheat is starting to head out.

### **ACCOMACK (Jim Belote) (cont.)**

Farmers are finishing up with corn, planting soybeans, applying pesticides and attending meetings. May also be no cucumbers in the county for the first time in decades.

### **WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)**

The last few acres of corn were being planted. Some full season soybeans were being planted. A few fields of corn were being replanted due to cold weather earlier in April. More vegetables were being planted. Cooler temperatures caused some slow growth on most crops. A few fields of wheat were being treated for cereal leaf beetle and minor disease problems in wheat. Strawberry and asparagus harvest continues. Conditions are mostly dry. Had some small showers last weekend but it doesn't last long in the fields since there is little reserve moisture in soils. Some hay cut and baled this week, also.

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Strong winds and cool temperatures last weekend caused a setback to some of the corn. Cool temperatures and leaf damage from wind and sand appears as yellow plants with twisted stems and leaves. Some sweet corn varieties have not survived the weather and will have to be replanted. Farmers are holding back on soybean planting till temperatures warm up soils. Wheat on the other hand is looking good. There is very little disease or insect pressure this year.